

APPENDIX



THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

SECRET

JCSM-684-61

29 September 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Subject: Rotation of the Berlin Augmentation  
Battle Group (U)

1. To provide a political and psychological demonstration of the US attitude in regard to the Berlin situation, one Seventh Army battle group was deployed to Berlin on 20 August 1961.

2. USCINCEUR has assumed the political situation will require a continued augmentation of the US forces in Berlin Garrison for an indefinite period. Therefore, for training and administrative reasons he has proposed that Seventh Army augmentation battle groups be rotated into and out of Berlin approximately every two or three months. He has stated that the rotation could be phased over several days; however, he and his subordinate commanders concerned desire to exchange battle groups as single elements. He has further stated:

"Rotation plan has been prepared which envisions movement reinforced Battle Groups in and out of Berlin by administrative motor convoy along Helmstedt-Berlin Autobahn, with all equipment except tracked vehicles, troops to be in combat uniform. Normally, relief will be effected by a Schleswig-Holstein area with relieved Battle Group leaving Berlin this day and relieving Battle Group moving into Berlin next day. Should circumstances so dictate, relieving force will be moved in full. Plan also makes adequate provision for communication and control of units traversing Helmstedt-Berlin Autobahn."

3. In order to accomplish the rotation, preclude rumors in Germany and to reaffirm the US determination to maintain augmentation forces in Berlin as long as required, USCINCEUR has stated:

DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 8200.10

"Recommend early decision on this matter with authority to theatre commander to announce the policy at time he deems appropriate followed by minimum publicity at the time of exchange which would then be announced as routine. Upon approval of rotation policy contemplate that US officials in Berlin will brief Mayor Brandt, with public announcement to follow thereafter."

4. The Joint Chiefs of Staff support USCINCEUR's views, providing not more than three battle groups are in Berlin at one time, and recommend that you obtain approval for dispatch of the attached message which authorizes General Norstad, at his discretion, to initiate and publicly announce the rotation of augmentation battle groups into and out of Berlin, and that he provide the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Department of Defense, well in advance, the date rotation will commence and the public announcement which will be released.

For the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

SIGNED

L. L. LEMNITZER  
Chairman  
Joint Chiefs of Staff

Attachment

Annex hereto